

The engagement of the comedian, Stuart Robson, which begins with a Christmas matinee at the Grand Opera House, tomorrow, in "A Comedy of Errors," is procompanies the adequate production on the local stage of a Shakspearean play by a noted actor. During his long professional his sister, Miss Jennie Dunn, are again re-united in this play, in which they introduce career Mr. Robson has always shown himself to be endowed with those rare artistic qualities that pre-eminently fit him to successfully cater to the very highest class of devotees of the comic side of dramatic art. He has always been especially happy in the delineation of Shakspeare's eccentric creations, and it is not strange that he should desire to mark the apex of his successful career by a production of the "Comedy of Errors" on a scale of notable magnificence as regards even the smallest es-

Viewed from many standpoints, this rarely seen old comedy has remarkable claims upon public interest. It was the great poet's first play, written not long after his arrival in London, with a spirit of willingness horses at the entrance to the theater. Many writers upon Shakspeare have supposed this comedy to have been adapted from an earthere exists to-day no trace excepting the presumption that it was founded on Plautus's Latin comedy, "The Menechmi," and as the "Historie of Error," and was performed before Elizabeth when Shakspeare was still a school boy, with a penchant for

poaching on his neighbors' game preserves. Supposing all this to be true, it readily accounts for the peculiar and humorous hobbling verses, as they have often been called, in which the droll speeches of the



STUART ROSSONtwo Dromios are mostly written; for this peculiar style of rhyme was in almost universal use in the comic drama up to the time of Shakspeare's advent into literature, while aside from this instance he is known to have made but rare use of it himself. It is certainly perfectly adapted to enhance the broad and infectious humor of the two Dromlos. Altogether, it is generally regarded as doubtful if the poet ever saw the original comedy of Plautus, from which his story was actually derived. Queen Elizabeth must have found great pleasure in the humorous and delightful mystifications of Shakspeare's first comic effort, for it is on record that in one form or another she commanded it to be presented before her three different times within a period of eighteen years, on the last occasion Shakspeare himself assuming the role of the Duke of Ephesus, and being especially complimented by her Majesty at the close of

"Friends" at the Grand. Mr. Edwin Milton Royle's comedy drama "Friends," which made such an excellent impression here, as elsewhere, last season, by its strong interest and unusual literary merit, will be played at the Grand the latter part of this week. Mr. Royle not only wrote the drama, but plays the leading part in it as well. In it he has shown a



in Multon Royle.

instruction of his story and of a plot that is coherent, ete with human interest. The has a fresh, breezy and vigt makes his comedy pleasing tic scenes impressive. That deathe attention throughout qualities of friendship n towards Adrian, his interest with they both love, re that Jack is n back into his ith a smile. The nterest and will, ouses during its mpany presenting ig one, comprising as Selena Fetteryears leading supand later in the ex. Salvini; Edwin or of the play; E. D. ars leading character ving, at the Lyceum ucius Henderson, the Allen, the well-known ergman, who was for ane: Carrie Berg.

ng to English's. ined the favor of theaterthis week. The local been asked to remova ng" company. The laterur he scenery used in the opera, water. When he preaches he is a nul-

te Reed and others of

and this scenery is fresh from the studio of M. Gros, the New York scenic artist. It is said to be far more elaborate than has ever been attempted in previous productions of the piece. The new faces in the cast seem likely, judging from the company's success elsewhere, to at once be-come popular here. Edwin Stevens, the eminent comedian, to whom is due much of the fame of the New York Casino, has already a name here. Among others who have hitherto been seen in "Wang" will be Miss Virginia Earl, who, by the charm of her impersonation of soubrette roles with the Hoyt & Thomas farce comedies, has come to be recognized as among the leaders in that line of stage work; Miss Ethel Lynton, who will be remembered as a bewitching Olivette; Miss Florence Drake, a young singer of great ability, who comes heralded as one of the future artists of high rank, and Miss Mittle Atherton, who, by her grace and voice, was long a favorite in the Duff Opera Company. The company num-bers sixty people in all, and its own musicians will augment the regular orchestra.

Ezra Kendall in "The Substitute." Mr. Ezra Kendall, an eccentric comedian, who became known to fame by his amusing performance of Giles Buttons, in "A Pair of Kids," will present his new play "The Substitute," at the Christmas matinee at English's to-morrow and to-morrow night. The piece, it is said, abounds in amusing situations and entertaining special-The funny little comedian Arthur Dunn, whose work in "Sinbad" and "Babes in the Woods" are a pleasant memory, and specialties. Another well known performer in the company is big John Hart, formerly of the "Two Johns." As the name indicates, "The Substitute" is a story growing out of some scenes and incidents of war times, a friend becoming the "substitute" for his neighbor who is drafted, and whose death before the substitute's return home results in making him not only a substitute for the war, but also thereafter for life by his marrying the widow. The story furnishes Mr. Kendall an opportunity for the display of a higher character of work than heretofore. and his reputation as a most amusing comedian would justify the expectation that he will use it to good advantage.

"The Romany Rye" at the Park. The Park Theater will have a drama of unusual interest all this week, beginning with the Christmas matinee to-morrow, in George R. Sims's picturesque melodrama, "The Romany Rye," which has not been seen here for many years. "The Romany Rye" has an interesting story, and the working out of its plot leads up to a series of strong situations and climaxes that are Among the scenes deserving special mention are the Hampton race course, the wreck of the Saratoga, the bird cage and the gypsy encampment. Special scenery is a still existing record that it was known | carried by this company for the presentation of these various effects. The company, which is an unusually large one, has for its star Mr. Frank Losee, a well-known leading man, who has, in Jack Herne, a part well suited to his capabilities. Miss Marion Elmore, a well-known comedienne, is also in the cast. Of all the English melodtamas that have been brought to this country, "The Romany Rye" is the most

picturesque and interesting. It is well re-

membered by theater-goers here, and there

is a very large advance sale for the en-"Monte Carlo" at English's. Primrose & West, the minstrels, have inaugurated a new amusement enterprise. which will be seen here for the first time at English's, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Wednesday matinee of this week. It is called "Monte Carlo," and is a mixture of minstrelsy and farce comedy, much "Tuxedo" and "Africa," and it has been much commended in other cities. In the company which will present it are a number of well-known performers, notably, George Wilson, for many years a minstrel celebrity; the Gorman brothers, James, George and John, who have been shining lights in the same line of stage work; De-lane and Debrimont, Miss Annie Suits, Miss Mary Clayton, Miss Fannie Osgood, and a half dozen other young women. "Monte Carlo," as a matter of course, is made up largely of specialties, which the clever people who compose the company, should be able to make unusually entertaining.

Empire Theater. Commencing with a Christmas matinee to-morrow the New York London Theater Company, direct from James Donaldson's London Theater, New York, will begin a week's engagement at the Empire Theater. Mr. Donaldson, the well-known Eastern manager, has selected the principal vaudeville stars who have so long pleased the patrons of his house, and combined ten of the strongest acts before the public. Among the vaudeville artists he has Filson and Errol, in their own creation, "Women vs. Men;" Ed Rogers, author, vocalist and dancer; Matthews and Harris, comedy duo; Valjean, the juggler; Frank Riley, "dat ole nigger man;" Leroy and Clayton, with ideas of their own; Hamilton and Glynn, expert musical artists; Rowe and Brennar, burlesque aerial artists; St. Maur and Gardner, operatic queens, and for the children will introduce the Ryders and their family of trained monkeys.

Gossip of the Stage. Tragedian Keene is to retire at the end Rubinstein wouldn't take \$125,000 for three months' tour of America.

Rosina Vokes will go to Switzerland. E. E. Rice has bought a new opera, by Estelle Clayton, entitled "The Viking." It is reported in London that Mr. Richard New York Weekly. Mansfield will act in that city next year. Nikisch is to conduct for Augustus Harris in German opera performances in London. E. N. Thayer, the veteran actor, now residing in San Francisco, is suffering from a shock of paralysis. "The Dazzler," a particularly amusing farce-comedy, is announced as the Grand's

Bert Coote, who is to join the Patti Rosa company for the remainder of the season, will star next year in a new comedy. Mary Hampton declined to accept the alimony awarded to her by the court which divorged her from E. J. Henley. Messrs, Frederic Bryton and Duncan B. Harrison are to star jointly in "Forgiven" and "In Mizzoura," backed by a syndicate Estelle Clayton's opera, "The Viking," which treats polar discoveries in a humor ors fashion, has been bought by E. E.

A clock and a picture constituted the souvenirs distributed at the fiftieth performance of the "Councillor's Wife" in New

Clinton Stuart's comedy, "Newport," which W. H. Crane talked of producing last year, will be brought out next spring by Nat Goodwin.

"New Blood," the new comedy by Augustus Thomas, is to be brought out under the direction of A. M. Palmer at the Garden Theater in New York on Jan. 27. Hattle Weems, of "Killarney on the Rhine," attempted suicide when she learned that her husband, from whom she separated two years ago, was to be her stage lover. Charles A. Gardner, in many respects the best of the German dialect comedians, will play at English's the first part of next week in his new comedy, "The Prize-

Belle Archer was said to be a failure as advance agent for Carrie Turner, because she told the newspapers a good deal about herself and made a merely incidental mention of Miss Turner. Rose Hil's English Folly Company will

be the New Year's attraction at the Enpire Theater. This show has always been a favorite at the Empire, and this season the company is stronger than ever. Wilson Barrett is enjoying a most triumphant tour in this country, and that his success as Virginius qualifies him to take the place of the late John McCullough.

Samuel Sothern will replace Harry Woodruff in the "Charley's Aunt" company at the Standard Theater. Woodruff is the actor who it is reported is to marry Helen Gould after two years at Yale College. "The Cruel Deep," a new melodrama by Harry F.tzgerald, was produced on Dec. at Reading, Pa. Another new play, called "The American Press Reporter," was recently brought out at Exeter, N. H. initial production of Fitzgerald Murphy's

new sensational society play, Man's Wife." Colin Kemper has engaged some excellent people for the cast, which he intends to make first-class. Roland Reed is lying dangerously ill of typhoid fever at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto, and his physicians say he will not be able to act again for several weeks to come. He was to have produced his new play, "Dakota," at the Amphion Theater, Brooklyn, on Monday, but now the pro-The New York Recorder says: "A

duction has been postponed indefinitely. Woman of No Importanca," while being an attempt at the solution of gray; social problems, is not half so diverting as was Lady Windermere's Fan." There Mr. Wilde does not attempt to preach, he only skims. Skims other men's cream for his

sance. He should adopt as his motto (is it really his?) "Nothing succeeds like suc-

A decree of absolute divorce from John Montgomery Ward was granted to Helen Dauvray Ward on Wednesday last. This is the plaintiff's second divorce, her first hus-band having been L. F. Tracy, from whom she secured a legal release on statutory

William Hoey, who is shortly to dis-solve his partnership with Charles E. Evans, will be a Black Sheep, and not Old Hoss, next season. Charles H. Hoyt has written for him a comedy with this title, based on the Arizona Kicker anecdotes, the character of Hot Stuff being the one elaborated for Mr. Hoey.

"Mrs. Grundy, jr.," is the title of Clyde Fitch's adaptation of "Corrignon vs. Cor-rignon," which Charles Frohman's comedians will produce in Washington a week from Thursday. The original French play is founded on the story of a divorce case. The American version, Mr. Frohman says, has been entirely purified.

Charles Coghlan, who was discharged from his sister's company, has served papers upon her telling her that he only has the right to use the name of Coghlan and that she can no longer play under the name. Miss Coghlan has been married for the past six years and her brother claims that she must play under the name of Mrs. Sullivan or not at all.

C. T. Dazey, the author of "In Old Kentucky." is collaborating with a New York journalist on a society comedy; with Edward Paulton on a romantic drama, and with Oscar Well on the libretto of a comic opera, and in addition be is preparing the scenario of a play for Charles Frohman, and is writing an extravaganza for Gilmore A petition is being circulated among the professional people asking Governor Flow-er to pardon Miss Ellen Cummins, the ac-

tress, who was sentenced to twenty days in the city prison recently for stealing a diamond lace pin from Mrs. Guinevere Cushman, another actress, on Nov. 18. Miss Cummins pleaded extreme poverty as a motive for her crime

Selena Fetter has been telling some of her friends about Stuart Robson's conher marriage to Edwin Milton Royle. Here is what the genial comedian wired: "Would be more than pleased to meet the man who won you, if only to see that you have selected a man as handsome as I am. We are scarce, I know, but I truly hope you have caught one of us.

"I am a stanch believer in the Gallic theory that the most important function of the stage is to amuse," says "prompter" Nagle, in the New York Recorder, "there fore it is with some sorrow that I recorthe fact that the return to the stage of Robert Cutting, jr., will occur not in this city. I had such fun at Bob's first performance that I really feel sad at not getting another chance to view those legs, that delightful stutter and his generous tout ensemble. Bob, fearing the causticity of the metropolitan critic, will take to grease paint again in the rural districts. His gain is our loss."

HUMOR OF THE DAY. Bombs in the Family.

Rochester Democrat. "Is Jinglets an Anarchist?"
"No; what made you think so?" "From the blowing up he gave his wife this morning."

Judge-Have you anything to offer the court before sentence is passed? Prisoner-No, your honor. My lawyer took my last shilling.

Penniless.

Mrs. Chatter-Do you believe that cures can be effected by the laying on of hands?
Mr. Clatter-Most certainly. I cured my boy of smoking that way.

Plenty of Faith.

A Far-Away Look. Harper's Bazar. "You have a far-away look in your eyes to-night, Maud," said Borley. "Yes. The eyes often betray the dearest wishes of our hearts," said Maud.

Weak Woman. New York Weekly. Mrs. Gumpps-What do you think of this? per says women make better violinists tha of course. They can't make Mr. Gumpps-

so much noise. Good News. Little Boy-Who was that man who's Country Merchant-He's a drummer.

"What sort of drums does he drum on? A Hummer. New York Weekly.

First Space Writer-That article of yours, "Truth Is Stranger than Fiction," is a hummer. Bound to attract attention. Where did you get the facts? Second Space Writer-Made 'em up.

An Active Mind. Good News.

Fond Mother-My boy has a very active Teacher-Assuredly. I wish you could hear the dear little fellow talk when he gets caught at something, and tries to make me believe that he didn't do it.

Barren Ground. Timber Fist (pointing to passing man)-I tackled him for tenpence, but he threw me Pink Whiskers Blake (in horror)-Tackled him? Hully gee! that's Russell Sage. You couldn't get money out o' him wid dyna-

Keeping Her at Home. Wife-Don't you think you might manage to keep house alone for a week while I go Husband-I guess so; yes, of course.

"But won't you be lonely and miserable?" "Huh! Then I won't go."

Evolution of Football. Good News.

a football team. Mamma-Horrors! Little Dot-Oh, we won't play it like the boys do, a-tumblin' around like pupples in a box-no indeed. We's only goin' to kick the ball. I guess our side will win, 'cause most of us knows the skirt dance. Exactly.

Little Dot-Mamma, us girls is gettin' up

Good News.

Boggs-I honestly believe that Smythe married h s wife on account of her good Dudley-Took her at her face value, as it Boggs-And I've no doubt that Browne married his wife because her father was wealthy Dudley-Took her at her pa value, as it

Spoiled Boy-Mrs. Nexblock says I'm the most spoiled boy in town. Mother-She does, does she? I'd just have er know you are trained as much as her brats, any day. Let me know next time she passes the house. Spoiled Boy (delightedly)-Yes'm. Mother-Now don't forget. I want her to hear me spanking you.

Proving Her False.

A Landlord in Gloom. New York Weekly. Wife-Who was that who called? Husband-One of my tenants came to pay his rent.

"Then why do you look so gloomy?" "He didn't say a word about wanting five or six hundred dollars' worth of repairs" "What of it?" "That shows that he's going to leave."

She Ordered Clam Chowder. New York Weekly. Lady-Once last summer I saw some boys 'treading for clams," as they called it. They were very dirty-looking boys; they were barefooted-feet unwashed most likely-and they were walking through the mud at low tide. When they felt a clam with their feet they lifted it out with their toes. It just made me sick. I hope your clams are not caught that way. Waiter-In course not, ma'am. The man wot furnishes clams to this restaurant fishes for 'em with a silver spoon.

A Man of Taste.

Frayed Fagin (as housewife gives him a pair of russet shoes)-Now, where's the derby hat and sack coat? Housewife (in surprise)-Derby hat and sack coat! These shoes are all I've got, and Frayed Fagin (throwing shoes down in disgust)-Want me to wear russet shoes with a high hat and Prince Albert coat? No. Madam. If you were raised in Brooklyn, you needn't think I was.

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